

Before proceeding further the writer desires to enter a plea *pro dome sua*. He, like others, has his weak spot, and the present may be the only opportunity he will ever have of setting forth certain facts concerning his family, which, in spite of considerable association with English journalism and literature, has frequently been described — chiefly in connection with Zola and his writings — as Greek, Hungarian, Polish, Italian, or Jewish. That the Vizetellys are of Italian origin is indisputable, but one may well inquire how long it takes to make a family English ? Some are accepted as such after a few years. Surely, then, four centuries ought to suffice.

The forerunners of Henry Vizetelly came from Venice* to England in the spacious days of Queen Elizabeth; and until the end of the seventeenth century were concerned in the manufacture of glass. One of them became connected with some works established at Lambeth in or about 1673 by George Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham. The first sheets of blown glass for mirrors and coach-windows made in Great Britain came from those works, which Evelyn visited, as mentioned in his "Diary." But in the early part of the eighteenth century the Vizetellys became printers, and the family papers describe them as of "the parish of St. Bride's

in the city of London." The Vizetelly, or
Vizzetelli, of
Elizabethan days having been called James
(Jacopo), it
became until recent years the family rule
that the eldest
son of the eldest son should bear that
Christian name.

¹ Researches made by the late James T. G. Yizetelly, who
was long the
senior member of the family (1818-1897), traced it "back to
Ravenna, whence
it removed to Venice. Henry Yizetelly, when preparing his
autobiography, had
no family documents before him and fell into various errors in
Ma account of
Ms forerunners.